of the first instalment of funds under Employment Assurance Scheme and provision of additionally of Rs. 37 crore in the Annual Plan 1998-99 of Orissa for these districts. Further Rs. 7 crore have been provided for Emergency Feeding Programme and Rs. 2 crore for Mobile Health Units under Basic Minimum Services.

Release of Central pool resources to North-Eastern States

2603. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the basis of distribution of the Prime Minister's package and 10 percent cut from the Central budget to the North-Eastern States;

(b) amount so far released to each State of North-East Region;

(c) whether Government have taken up to reflect it in the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, amount which allotted to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) The then Prime Minister had visited the North Eastern States in October, 1996 and had made a statement at Guwahati on 27th October, 1996 in regard to New Initiatives for the North Eastern Region. This statement included, inter-alia, several projects to be implemented on priority and envisaged earmarking of 10% of the Budgets of Central Ministries/Departments for the North Eastern States.

A Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources has since been constituted from out of unspent amount(s) from 10% of the Budgets of the various Central Ministries/Departments, which is to be utilized to assist development projects, including in the infrastructure sector, in the North East and Sikkim. Releases amounting to Rs. 93.10 crores have so far been made from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources to the North Eastern States for implementation of Projects by the appropriate Central/State agencies through the State Plans.

Poverty Line in Punjab

2604. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Punjab's population which are living below the poverty line during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) the figures for the preceding three years;

(c) the percentage of population living in Kuchcha houses and jhuggies;

(d) the average per capita annual income of people living below poverty line during the same period;

(e) the steps being taken to ameliorate the condition of the poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINIS- TER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage of persons living below poverty line from the quinquennial consumer expenditure survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The last such survey was conducted in 1993-94. As such, the estimates of percentage of people living below the poverty line in 1997-98 and 1998-99 and also for the preceding three years are not available. As per the latest estimates of percentage of persons living below the poverty line, based on the consumer expenditure survey data of 50th Round of NSSO, 11.77 per cent of the population in Punjab lived below the poverty line in 1993-94.

(c)The NSSO in its 50th Round (July, 1993 to June, 1994) has collected data on number of households living in kucha houses i.e., the

houses which have wall and roof made with mud, bomboo, grass, leaves, reeds, thatch or unburnt bricks. As per the results of this survey, in Punjab, 12.3% of the households in rural areas and 2.7% of the households in urban areas lived in kucha houses in 1993-94.

(d) The data on income are not available. As per the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of the 50th Round, the per capita consumption expenditure of the people below the poverty line in Punjab in 1993-94 is estimated as Rs. 197 per month in rural areas and Rs. 218 per month in urban areas.

(e) There is a three pronged action against poverty. These are; (i) acceleration of esconimc growth, (ii) human and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting the minimum needs, alleviation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society etc., and (iii) direct programmes and asset building for the poor. In the Ninth Plan, the Basic Minimum Ser- vices (BMS) programme has been introduced to ensure access to all the people living in both rural and urban areas to seven basic services in a time bound manner. Besides, Special Action Plans, covering specific aspescts of social and physical infrastructure, agriculture, information technology & water policy, have been evolved in the Ninth Plan in order to provide actionable time bound targets with adequate resoursces, which will also help the poor. The wage and self-employment schemes for the poor are proposed to be strealined and rationalised in order to make them more effective.

Identification of Families below Poverty Line

2605. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present monetary limit for identifying the family as below poverty line in Himachal Pradesh and when this limit has been fixed;

(b) whether Government propose to enchance this monetary limit in view of the changed economic conditions;

(c) what is the proposed limit in terms of annual income for the purpose; and

(d) the State-wise details of the families below poverty line during last three years in accordance with the then prevailing monetary limits prescribed for below poverty lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The Planning Commission since March, 1997, has been using state-specific poverty lines following the rescommendations of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor for estimation of the persons living below the poverty line. The poverty line for Himchal Pradesh in 1996-97 is estimated as monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 289.31 in rural areas and Rs. 300.91 in urban areas. The poverty lines are defined on the basis of persons and not families.

(b) The poverty lines are contiunously reviewed for changes in prices and ac cordingly the monetary limits are enhanced.

(c) The poverty lines are based on consumption expenditure and not on income.
Therefore, no limits are fixed for annual income.

(d) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage of persons living below the poverty line from the quinquennial consumer expenditure survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation. The last such survey was conducted in the year 1993-94. As such, the estimates of percentage of people living below the poverty line for the last three years are not available, the latest estimates of state-wise percentage of persons living below the poverty line available for the year 1993-94 based on the consumder expenditure survey date of 50th Round, is given in the statement